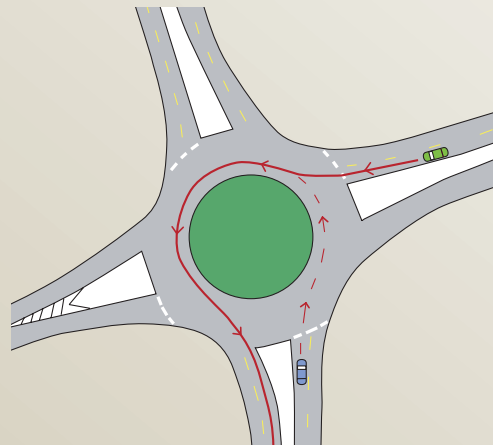


How do I drive in roundabouts (continued)

Left turn or U-turn

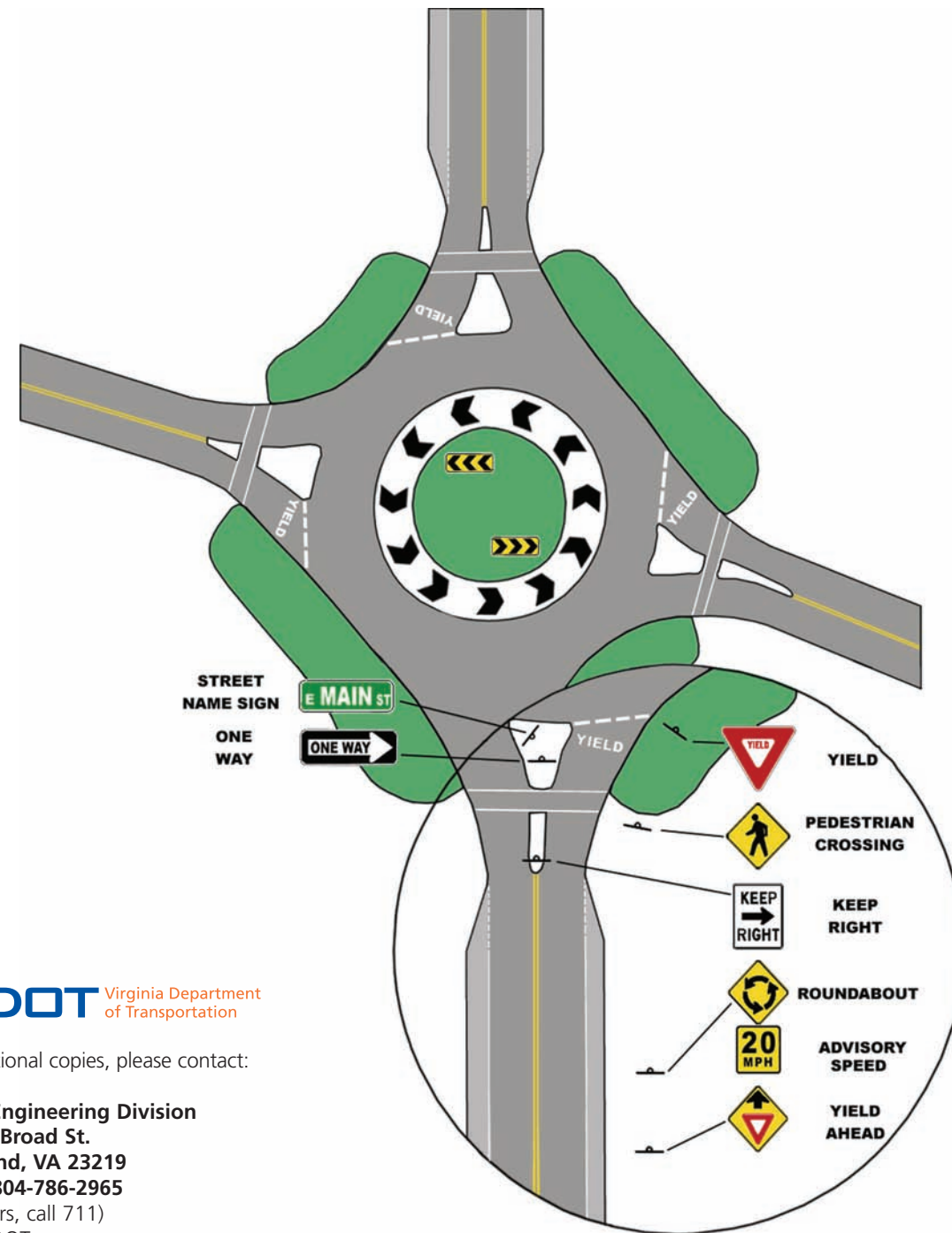
- 1) Slow down and prepare to yield as you approach the roundabout.
- 2) Enter the roundabout in the left lane (if there is a two-lane approach) and stay in that lane throughout the roundabout.
- 3) You must yield to traffic already in the roundabout.
- 4) Signal your turn just past the exit prior to your desired exit.



Remember

- ⌘ Always yield to pedestrians who may be crossing the road on your approach to the roundabout.
- ⌘ Pedestrians, bicycle riders and motorcyclists are often very hard to see, so always watch for them.
- ⌘ Buses and trucks may need more than one lane to enter or leave a roundabout, so keep clear of them.
- ⌘ Always yield to vehicles that are in the roundabout.

Sample signing and pavement marking plan for a roundabout



For additional copies, please contact:

Traffic Engineering Division
1401 E. Broad St.
Richmond, VA 23219
Phone 804-786-2965
(TTY users, call 711)
VirginiaDOT.org

© 2005, Commonwealth of Virginia, 15m/August 2005/job05099



Roundabouts



VDOT Answers Your Questions



Roundabouts in Virginia

The Virginia Department of Transportation has begun using roundabouts in certain situations to enhance safety and reduce delays encountered by the motoring public.

Roundabouts have been used effectively throughout the world for many years. In recent years, they have been used here in the United States to reduce crashes, traffic delays, fuel consumption, air pollution and construction as well as maintenance costs, while quite often moving more traffic and enhancing intersection beauty. They have also been used to control speed in residential neighborhoods and are accepted as one of the safest types of intersection designs.

Roundabouts differ from the old, larger traffic circles in three major areas:

- 1) A roundabout is generally smaller in diameter, requiring lower traveling speed.
- 2) At roundabouts, the entering traffic yields the right-of-way to the circulating traffic. This yield-at-entry rule keeps traffic from locking up and allows free flow movement.
- 3) The splitter and center islands of a roundabout deflect entering traffic and reinforce the yielding process.

Why use a roundabout?

- ⌘ **Safety** — Roundabouts have been shown to reduce fatal and injury crashes as much as 75 percent. The reduction in crashes is attributed to slower speeds and reduced number of conflict points.

- ⌘ **Low maintenance** — Eliminates maintenance and electricity costs associated with traffic signals, which could possibly be as much as \$5,000 per year per intersection.
- ⌘ **Reduced delay** — By yielding at the entry rather than stopping and waiting for a green light, delay is significantly reduced.
- ⌘ **Capacity** — Intersections with high volumes of left turns are often better handled by a roundabout than a multi-phased traffic signal.
- ⌘ **Environmental** — A reduction in delay corresponds to a decrease in fuel consumption and air pollution.
- ⌘ **Aesthetics** — The central island provides an opportunity to beautify the intersection with landscaping.

What do roundabout signs look like?

Roundabouts are easy to use. You simply position your vehicle correctly and indicate where you want to go.

Roundabout “Yield” signs together with “Yield” line markings are placed at the intersection of each approach road with the roundabout.

Advance Roundabout Warning Signs advise that you are approaching a roundabout.

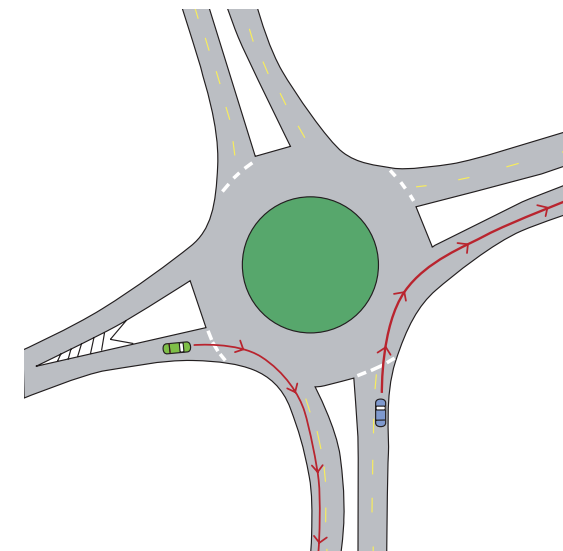
In Virginia, roundabouts will be either one lane or two lanes. Listed here are the procedures one must take to negotiate turns when approaching a roundabout.

How do I drive in roundabouts

Right turns

- 1) Slow down and prepare to yield as you approach the roundabout.
- 2) On the approach you must be in the right lane (if it is a dual lane roundabout).
- 3) You must yield to the traffic already in the roundabout.
- 4) Stay to the right as you approach your turn.
- 5) Place your right turn signal on until you have exited the roundabout.

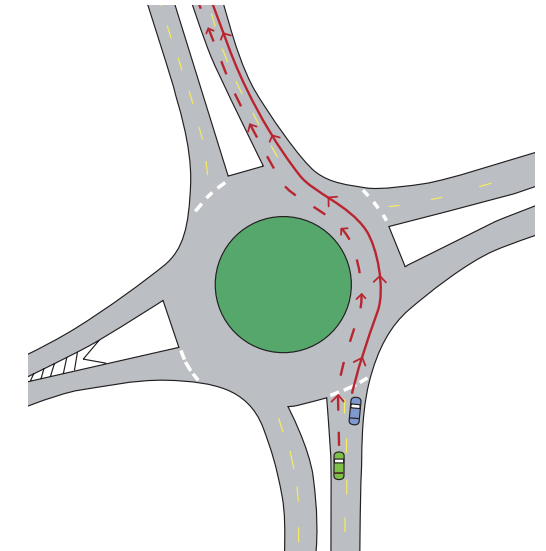
Note: Cars in the figures show the position prior to the maneuver.



Making a right turn in a roundabout.

Straight ahead

- 1) Slow down and prepare to yield as you approach the roundabout.
- 2) Unless signs or lane markings indicate an exclusive right turn, approach in the right lane and stay in that lane through the roundabout. If this is a two-lane roundabout, and the right lane is blocked due to dense traffic or road obstruction, approach and continue through the roundabout in the left lane.
- 3) You must yield to traffic already in the roundabout.
- 4) Display your right turn indicator just past the exit prior to the one you plan to exit.



Driving straight ahead through a roundabout.